

NSC BRIEFING

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15 July 1955

ROSY — COMPLETE PHOTO-COPY —
AFGHAN-PAKISTANI DEVELOPMENTS

LAST
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CARDS
NEW

I. Afghanistan's immediate and abrupt rejection (25 June) of Pakistan terms for settlement Kabul riot dispute (incident was 30 March) has left situation in which both sides now striving to improve respective bargaining positions.

A. Saudi Arabian and Egyptian mediators threw in sponge after Afghans rejected Pak terms, went home.

B. Paks forthwith tightened embargo on Afghans, announced (28 June) preparations sever diplomatic relations.

C. Afghans, in turn, played trump by signing 5-year transit agreement with USSR.

1. Agreement, if put into action, would permit conduct of Afghan foreign trade despite airtight Pak blockade.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

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II. However, neither side appears happy over present stalemate

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A. Paks face serious internal political, economic problems; wish decks cleared of this sort distracting international squabble.

III. Pak ambassador in Kabul saw Afghan king (Zahir Shah) 12 July and recited "misdeeds of commission and omission" of Daud government in hope reopening situation after failure Saudi mediation effort.

A. Afghan king, though country pinched by Pak embargo, refused abandon Pushtoonistan propaganda but recognized it should be dignified, not inciting to hatred and violence.

B. Added he constitutional monarch and therefore unable take direct action, but would set forth his views to Daud.

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C. Making most courteous and gracious and made no threats about turning to USSR, suggesting Afghan-Soviet transit agreement being held more as bargaining point than anything else.

IV. Pak government now studying ambassador's report.

V. Way seems open for further maneuvers ending in Afghan promise to curb Daud if Paks will agree Afghan right continue "dignified" propaganda.



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